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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 3.

Town Hall,
LYNTON,
North Devon.

Tel: Nos:
Lynton 3288.
Lynton 2204.

LYNTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To: The Chairman and Members of
the Lynton Urban District Council.

Mrs. Blackhurst and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting herewith my ANNUAL REPORT for the year ended 31st December 1963.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:	Dr. M.P. Nightingale, M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P. "Kneesworth", Lee Road, LYNTON. Private Tel: No: 2204.
Chief Public Health Inspector:	Mr. T.J. Loveless, A.I.A.S., M.A.P.H.I. Town Hall, LYNTON. Tel: No: Lynton 3288.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in Acres	7,628
Population (Reg.Gen. Mid-year Estimate)	1,680
Number of inhabited houses	609
Rateable Value	£57,325
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£238.17.1.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births: Legitimate:	Males 9.	Females 9.	Total ...	18
Illegitimate:	Males -	Females -	Total ...	-

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	10.71
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	Nil
Still births: Legitimate	Nil
Illegitimate	Nil
Total Live and Still births	18
Infant deaths under 1 year	2
Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 total live births	111.1
" " " " " " " Legitimate	111.1
" " " " " " " Illegitimate	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	111.1
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	111.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	111.1
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	Nil
Deaths ..... Males .... 16 Females ..... 15 ..... Total..	31
Deathrate per 1,000 population	18.45
Deathrate per 1,000 population adjusted	12.18
Births: Comparability Factor	1.10
Deaths: Comparability Factor	0.66

Deaths.

19 had reached the age of 75 and over.
8 " " " " " 65 - 75
2 " " " " " 55 - 65

Deaths from:

Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	5
Hypertension with heart disease	3
Other heart disease	3
Other circulatory disease	2
Pneumonia	1
Bronchitis	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined diseases	2
	31

Notifiable Diseases.

Measles	6
Whooping Cough	2
	8

There were no cases of foodpoisoning reported during the year and I am pleased to mention the very low incidence of seasonal gastro-enteritis which no doubt is due mainly to the improved hygiene within the Urban District.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

The Chest Clinic for this area is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple.

Tuberculosis.

Treatment for tuberculosis is carried out at the Hawley Sanatorium in the Borough of Barnstaple and at Hawkmoor Sanatorium near Bovey Tracey.

Venereal Disease.

There were no reports of Venereal Disease. The nearest centre for treatment is at Barnstaple North Devon Infirmary and any cases that occur in this Urban District go direct to Barnstaple.

Ambulance Service.

Responsibility for the provision of an Ambulance Service rests with the County Council and its Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided by the Lynton St. John

Ambulance Association.

The Staff consists of one part-time Member, 4 men Volunteers and 10 Volunteer Nurses. The Ambulance is garaged at Cross Street, Lynton. The Hospital Car Service is available on application by the Doctors to the Hospital.

Isolation of Infectious Diseases.

The nearest Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is the Kingsley Hospital at Bideford.

Maternity.

There are two beds for maternity cases at the Lynton & District Cottage Hospital, with a fully qualified staff available. At the North Devon Infirmary there is an additional Ward available for cases of difficulty.

It is very gratifying to note that for the first time for a few years The Lynton Cottage Hospital remained open throughout the year and that the necessary qualified staff were available.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics are conducted at the Lynton Cottage Hospital by each General Practitioner in co-operation with the Hospital Staff.

Home Help Scheme.

The Home Nursing Service is operated by one District Nurse in conjunction with Nursing and Midwifery duties. In addition, assistance in the home is given by one Home Help.

Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare Centre changed its location and times of attendance during the year. This was brought about by the sale of the Jubilee Hall to a private person. The Centre is now held at the Methodist School Room, Lee Road, Lynton (near the Town Hall) and is open on the first and third TUESDAYS in the month, with a County Council Welfare Worker in attendance.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out by the General Practitioners of the area and also at the Welfare Centre and the School Clinics.

Laboratory Facilities.

Facilities are available for Bacteriological examinations of all kinds at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter.

Water Supply.

The following information regarding the mains water supply from the North Devon Water Board's Works at Dean Steep, Lynton, has been kindly given by the Chief Engineer (North).

The supply has been entirely satisfactory both in quality and quantity and no restrictions have had to be imposed. Bacteriological samples are taken weekly from various consumers' taps in the area of the supply and of the 67 samples taken all proved satisfactory and equivalent to a class one piped supply. Samples for bacteriological examination are not normally taken of the raw water, as this is known to vary from day to day according to rainfall. The water is soft in character and treated with modern plant to reduce any corrosive tendencies. A sample taken from the raw water inlet and submitted for chemical analysis is reported on by The Counties Public Health Laboratories as follows:- "This sample is only slightly opalescent in appearance. It is neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is soft in character and has a correspondingly low content of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality is of a high standard. These results indicate suitability for treatment for public supply purposes".

A sample submitted after treatment also is reported on by The Counties Public Health Laboratories as follows:- "This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, slightly alkaline in reaction and free from metals. The water is very soft in character and has a correspondingly low content of mineral and saline constituents. Its organic quality is of a high standard. These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, has been effectively treated and is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes".

The supply is not plumbo-solvent and no action is necessary with regard to contamination.

Standpipes from Public Mains are not used in Lynton, supplies being taken direct to all properties. The number of dwelling houses supplied direct from public mains is 509 and the estimated population supplied 1,430.

14 samples from private supplies in the outlying district have been taken and 9 samples were equivalent to a class one piped supply and 5 samples showed slight contamination.

A start was made during the latter end of the year on the construction of the 500,000 gallon service reservoir in the Old Station vicinity and it is estimated that the reservoir will be in operation in 1965. The reservoir in addition to providing an improved supply to the existing area served by the North Devon Water Board will enable the six dwellings at the Old Station to take a supply from the North Devon Water Board main supply and the existing inadequate private supply may then be discontinued.

Proposals have also been submitted to construct a 20,000 gallon service reservoir at Scoresdown, Lynton, to serve the Brendon and Rockford area adjoining the Urban District. The proposals include for a 4" pumping main to pump water from the existing North Devon Water Board Treatment works at Dean Steep, Lynton, to the service reservoir, and for a 4" distribution gravity main from the service reservoir to the villages of Brendon and Rockford. Such supply will also enable the farms in the West Lyn area to take a supply from the mains, a service which has not been available due to the elevated position of the farms.

Sewerage.

The main sewerage systems in Lynton and Lynmouth operated very satisfactorily without any complaints.

The Council have not again this year been able to proceed with a sewerage system for Barbrook Village and I can only reiterate my previous feelings that this scheme should proceed as soon as possible.

Rainfall.

The following figures of rainfall were recorded on the Manor Grounds at Lynmouth during 1963:-

	Inches
January	.76
February	1.46
March	6.17
April	4.98
May	1.63
June	2.18
July	1.92
August	3.73
September	2.54
October	1.67
November	9.09
December	1.38
	37.51

Swimming Pool.

Only one swimming pool exists in the Urban District and is under the control of the local authority. The Pool is sited on the Esplanade foreshore, Lynmouth, and is covered completely by each tide.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of refuse both from household and trade premises was made weekly during the Winter months and twice-weekly collections, with thrice-weekly collections from large houses and hotels, during the holiday period. Farm houses and dwellings in outlying areas receive, by agreement, quarterly collections.

Rodent Control.

The Refuse tip was found to be free of rodent infestation but periodic treatment with Warfarin continued to be made to ensure that the tip is kept free from infestation.

The number of complaints of rodent infestation were very few this year and the few that were received emanated from the river banks and I attribute this to householders adjoining the rivers depositing waste food in the river thus attracting the rodents. Suitable warnings have been issued and I hope this unsavoury practice will cease. All treatments and inspections were carried out by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.-

Food Premises in the District:-

Type	
Bakehouses	1
Butcher's Shops	4
Cafes and Restaurants	18
Confectioners	9
Dairies	1
Grocer's Shops	8
Greengrocers	4
Licensed Premises	10
Hotel and Boarding Houses	46
Fish and Chip Shops	1
Fish Shops	1

25 Food Premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/60.

40 visits were paid to Food Premises during the year and there has been an improvement in the standards of the premises visited. No formal action has been necessary.

Meat Inspection.

The private slaughterhouse in Lynton did not operate during 1963, all Butchers obtaining their meat from outside the Urban District.

The following foodstuffs were condemned and disposed of by the Council at their Refuse tip:-

Tinned Meat	4 tins
Meat	119 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Four purveyors of milk are registered as distributors in the district.

Petroleum.

The number of licensed premises in the year was 9.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING.

Licensed Sites.

Name of Site.	Static Holiday.	Touring.	Total.
Sunny Lyn, Lynbridge	22	16	38
West Lyn, Manor Farm	20	32	52
Dean Steep, Lynton	6	-	6
High Bullen	1	-	1
Sixacre Wood, Lee Abbey	1	-	1

The problem of "roadside" camping was again this year, as in other coastal resorts, a source of public health nuisance, and it is hoped some solution to this increasing problem will be found shortly.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	5	6	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Total	6	7	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspectr.	Referred by H.M. Inspectr.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

HOUSING.

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation 2

(b) Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority.. 1

(c) Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to (1) the service of notices requiring execution of works or (2) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders ..... Nil.

(d) Number of notices served requiring the execution of works ..... Nil.

(e) Number of Closing Orders made ..... Nil.

(f) Number of Demolition Orders made ..... Nil.

(g) Number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted ..... Nil.

(h) Number of houses demolished ..... Nil.

I have the honour to be
Mrs. Blackhurst and
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M.P. NIGHTINGALE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.